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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GEORGETOWN 000209

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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [MCAP](#) [OPDC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [XL](#) [GY](#)
SUBJECT: ANOTHER CARICOM CRICKET SECURITY REQUEST - LETTER
TO DOD A/S RODMAN

REF: GEORGETOWN 111

1. (SBU) Post received a diplomatic note today from the CARICOM Secretariat requesting post transmit the attached letter from CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington to Assistant Secretary of Defense Peter W. Rodman. The letter requests DoD give urgent consideration to deployment to the region during the Cricket World Cup of any available maritime assets that could aid CARICOM's surveillance efforts and provide trooplift transport. Carrington also repeats the request he made in his January 23 letter to Rodman that DoD assist CARICOM to mount an effective response to Chemical, Biological or Nuclear (CBRN) threats and support CARICOM in increasing its EOD/IEDD response capability.

2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT:

20 February 2007

Hon. Peter W. Rodman
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs
Office of the Secretary of Defense
2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
United States of America

Dear Assistant Secretary Rodman

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would like to indicate its deep appreciation to the Government of the United States and the Department of Defense in particular, for your continued interest and support of our current efforts, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Cricket World Cup 2007.

Your significant participation in the International Support and Advisory Group (ISAG), which has partnered with CARICOM during this important preparatory phase, has been beneficial to our overall planning efforts. A meeting between the leadership of SOUTHCOM and the Commander of the CARICOM Operational Planning and Coordinating Staff (COPACS) in December 2006 as well as a recent interaction between security planners from the Region and their counterparts only last week, have set the stage for meaningful cooperation, as we seek to implement our security architecture for the games.

Our ongoing threat assessment has identified key gaps in our Region's collective ability to respond to threats to the security of our ports, as well as our capacity to adequately field appropriate counter-terrorism teams and early responders during the period of the games. With the significant increase in maritime traffic which is anticipated during the hosting of CWC 2007, our security planners have been forced to pay particular attention to the possibility of

a terrorist attack, which could be directed at large cruise ships, yachts or small pleasure craft, which will be plying the waters of the Region in significant numbers during the tournament.

The reality is that even where Coast Guard, Marine Police and counter-terrorism assets do in fact exist within the Caribbean region, they do not, at the moment, have the capability to deal with a major event, such as the hijacking at sea of a cruise vessel or an even more catastrophic or lethal occurrence such as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) attack.

We are therefore formally requesting - in keeping with ongoing discussions between CARICOM and SOUTHCOM - your urgent consideration of any available maritime assets that could be deployed to the Region throughout the duration of the games which could aid CARICOM in our surveillance efforts and provide trooplift support during this period. As previously discussed, CARICOM would also welcome any assistance with mounting an effective response to a CBRN threat as well as any support in increasing our EOD/IEDD response capability.

CARICOM again remains grateful for your kind facilitation and continues to be appreciative of the very meaningful ongoing support being rendered by the Government and people of the United States of America.

Yours sincerely

Secretary-General

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END TEXT
Robinson